

WI-381

c. 1906

First Baptist Church of Athol  
Mardela Springs vicinity  
Public worship

Perched atop a sandy ridge southwest of Mardela Springs is the First Baptist Church of Athol. The single-story frame building was erected around 1906 and it features modest architectural decoration including fishscale shingles and twelve-over-twelve colored glass windows. Projecting from the front of the gable end elevation is a single-story, five-sided vestibule that is partially distinguished by fishscale shingles as well. The yard on the south side of the church is dotted with twentieth century grave markers, while a shed roofed two-door privy remains on the northwest side. The privy doors are distinguished by a star cut-out for the men's side and a moon cut-out for the women's side.

This congregation was established during the early twentieth century as the Athol Missionary Baptist congregation, which was granted a small 1/2-acre lot by Josephine Elliott on August 21, 1905. The architectural details of the church indicate that the building was erected around that time.

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: First Baptist Church of Athol

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-381

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):   Architecture  
  Religion
2. Geographic Orientation:       Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):   Industrial/Urban Dominance  
  1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s):            Church

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. WI-381  
Magi No.  
DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic First Baptist Church of Athol, Athol Missionary Baptist Church

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 8306 Baptist Church Road    not for publication

city, town Athol    vicinity of    congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture
<u>  </u> building(s)	<u>  </u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial
	<u>  </u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military
			<u>  </u> museum
			<u>  </u> park
			<u>  </u> private residence
			<u>  </u> religious
			<u>  </u> scientific
			<u>  </u> transportation
			<u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of the First Baptist Church of Athol

street & number 8306 Baptist Church Road telephone no.:   

city, town Mardela Springs state and zip code Md 21837

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court    liber EAT 47

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse    folio 64

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title   

date       federal    state    county    local

depository for survey records   

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-381

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The First Baptist Church of Athol is located at 8306 Baptist Church Road southwest of Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story, gable-front frame church faces east with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1906, the single-story rectangular frame church is supported by a concrete block foundation that includes an excavated cellar. The block foundation replaced original brick piers. The exterior is sheathed with asbestos shingles, and the steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Standing in back of the church is a two-door frame privy.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay front with a gable roofed entrance vestibule occupying the center bay. The vestibule is a five-sided structure with a door piercing the front wall. The gable roof above has extended eaves and the edges of the roof are finished with open soffits and exposed rafter ends. Finishing the underside or roof soffit are diagonally laid tongue and grove beaded edge boards. Piercing the wall of the church to each side are twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The gable end of the church is covered with fishscale shingles and the edge of the roof is extended. Like the vestibule the soffits are open and the rafter ends are exposed. A crown molding trims the edge of the bargeboard. A handicapped ramp is in the process of construction in front of the vestibule.

The north and south sides of the church are defined by three twelve-over-twelve sash windows filled with a blue glass. Two-pane windows pierce the foundation wall.

Attached to the back of the church is a single story hip roofed apse with twelve-over-twelve sash windows in each side elevation. A smaller six-over-one sash window pierces the west wall. Finishing the edge of the roof is an open eave with exposed rafter ends. Extending from the north side is a small gable roofed furnace room sheathed with vinyl siding.

Located on the south side of the church is a twentieth century cemetery.

Standing northwest of the church is a single story, shed roofed, two-door frame privy supported on concrete blocks and covered with asphalt shingles. The front wall has two board doors. The door on the left, used for men, has a star cut-out in the door, while the door on the right, intended for women, is distinguished by a moon cut out.

The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-381

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates****Builder/Architect**check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Perched atop a sandy ridge southwest of Mardela Springs is the First Baptist Church of Athol. The single-story frame building was erected around 1906 and it features modest architectural decoration including fishscale shingles and twelve-over-twelve colored glass windows. Projecting from the front of the gable end elevation is a single-story, five-sided vestibule that is partially distinguished by fishscale shingles as well. The yard on the south side of the church is dotted with twentieth century grave markers, while a shed roofed two-door privy remains on the northwest side. The privy doors are distinguished by a star cut-out for the men's side and a moon cut-out for the women's side.

This congregation was established during the early twentieth century as the Athol Missionary Baptist congregation, which was granted a small ½-acre lot by Josephine Elliott on August 21, 1905.<sup>1</sup> The architectural details of the church indicate that the building was erected around that time.

The architectural features qualify this building for listing in *Category B*, which identifies buildings of moderate architectural and historical interest.

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 47/64, 21 August 1905.

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**Acreage of nominated property** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle scale** \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References** do NOT complete UTM references

**A**

Zone Easting Northing

**B**

Zone Easting Northing

Detailed description: Three bar charts are shown side-by-side, each representing a different coordinate system. Each chart has 10 bars, one for each zone. The y-axis represents the number of individuals, with a scale from 0 to 1000. The 'Zone' chart shows a distribution where the first zone has the highest count (approx. 800) and the last zone has the lowest (approx. 100). The 'Easting' chart shows a more uniform distribution, with counts ranging from approx. 200 to 400. The 'Northing' chart shows a distribution where the first zone has the highest count (approx. 600) and the last zone has the lowest (approx. 100).

**c**

D

**E** 

F 

**G**

H L L L L L L L L L L L

### Verbal boundary description and justification

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
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<u>state</u>	code	county	code
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**11. Form Prepared By**

<b>name/title</b>	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
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**organization** Private Consultant **date** 6/20/98

**street & number** P. O. Box 5 **telephone** 410-615-1094

<b>city or town</b>	Westover	<b>state</b>	Maryland	21871
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST.**  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

WI-381

First Baptist Church of Athol

Mardela Springs vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

Chain of title

EAT 52/483

The First Baptist Church of Athol

to

3/24/1906

Maryland Baptist Union Association

Beginning for the same at a marked persimmon tree on the west side of the county road that leads from the Hall of the American Mechanics to No. Four School house

½ acre

EAT 52/482

Josephine Elliott, et al.

to

3/24/1906

George W. Riggin, H. Lee Riggin, C. Holland Riggin, Peter Graham, John W. Wilson, E. William Bennett, George E. Bennett, Howard D. Hatton, John F. Hatton

EAT 47/64

Josephine Elliott

to

8/21/1905

Trustees of Athol Missionary Baptist Church



WI-381  
First Baptist Church of Athol  
  
Mardela Springs, MD Quadrangle  
1982

'28 (WETIPQUIN) 5860 IV SE '30 47'30" QUANTICO 3 KM

SCALE 1:24 000

.5 0 1 2 KILOMETERS

Primary high